Threat to Software Sector

785. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleasd to state:

(a) whether NASSCOM has commented on the China' emergence as a threat to Indian Software Sector in the World Market;

(b) whether China had in the past, sought access to the working of Indian IT industry through delegations from China's IT industry and whether India had played host to many such delegations;

(c) whether it is a fact that china does not reciprocate our gesture by providing us access to study their IT sector; and

(d) whether NASSCOM has cautioned its members to curtail its interaction with their chinese counterparts?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The NASSCOM - McKinsey 2002 Study has indicated that we should treat China as the potential competitor in IT software and services business.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There have not been any indicators to this effect.

(d) NASSCOM has apprised its members about China being a competitor to India in IT software and services and advised them to be proactive in implementing suitable strategies to protect their long term interests. NASSCOM believes that a policy of 'complementarity and collaboration' would be preferable.

Regulation of Courier Service Trade

786. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to regulate functioning of Courier Service Trade through licensing system;

(b) whether the Postal Board would be empowered to issue the licenses for courier operations against a licence fee;

(c) whether necessary amendments to this effect are being made in the Indian Post Office Act, 1898; and

(d) whether the Speed Post Services operated by the Department of Posts would also be covered under this regulation and whether a courier fee tariff structure is also being imposed on the trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) It is proposed to provide for registration of private couriers operating in the postal sector with the Department of Posts.

(c) and (d) The proposals which will be applicable to all the players in postal sector including Department of Posts, can be finalized only after obtaining the required approval of the Parliament, to the necessary amendments to the Indian Posts Office Act, 1898.

Implementation of agreement with extra departmental postal employees

†787. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agreement entered into with the employees on the basis of recommendations of Talwar Committee has been implemented *in toto* which came into existence as a result of the strike of the extra-departmental postal employees;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the same is going to be implemented in totality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The agreement entered with the employees on 1.5.2000, consequent to strike in matters relating to recommendations of the Talwar Committee envisaged consideration of the issues subject to clearance by the competent authority. The process has been completed and actions as agreed upon stand fully completed.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.